

August 20, 1967

Mr. Julius Fransden
Vice President, United Press International
315 National Press Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Fransden:

I believe your offer of August 16 is a serious one. Although it is not responsive to my recent letter or those preceding it, I do welcome it.

You may recall that a year ago I offered you what information I had by then collected and consultation when any question of fact confronted you. Since then I have hoped it might be possible to get a dialogue going, that those who hold your belief would examine it in the light of the information that has always been available and that none of you would face.

It may not be in accord with your preconceptions or those of UPI, but I do assure you that I am out to "get" no one, want only the truth, and at great cost have done what I could to find it. Need I tell you that there has been an entirely different attitude by the media?

To date, no responsible element of the press has made anything reasonable men can call an honest inquiry. So you will not misunderstand, CBS and AP in particular claim to have made extensive and responsible studies. To a lesser degree, NBC makes the same pretense. None did.

So, I welcome your offer, assume it is a genuine one, and will accept it when I understand it better. This does not relate to my most recent letter which had a stated specific purpose.

This is an enormous subject. I doubt if any members of the press can begin to appreciate the vastness of the material available and the tremendous number of different items requiring examination. My own writing on it now totals about 700,000 words in three published books and one to appear soon. Completed, it will require about a million words.

This explanation is so you can understand my dilemma when you ask to see about 1,000 words stating the opposing case. I am not certain I understand what you mean by this. I would have to make a very general statement of the kind not usually considered newsworthy except from important people, or I would have to restrict myself to one or two specific items. When I understand what you have in mind, there should be no difficulty. I would appreciate an explanation.

I do want to accept your offer. I hope it can lead to what I very much want, a fair examination of fact. If anyone in authority takes the time to think this through, it might occur to him that this is a much more vital issue than people of power and influence recognize. I also believe it is possible for government to acknowledge error without disaster and that honest admission of it strengthens government and earns it respect.

Mr. Frandsen - 2

At the same time, I want to make clear my apprehensions about UPI and its policy on this subject and its attitude toward me. I have had sufficient news experience to know when what I have brought out was worthy of news attention, and I know UPI has suppressed me entirely, except when it chose to slander or libel me. My most recent book, PHOTOGRAPHIC WHITEWASH: SUPPRESSED KENNEDY ASSASSINATION PICTURES, has enough news value for the New York Times to give it more than 40 column inches. UPI, consistent with its record of the past, made no mention. There has been at least one major story and at least one major picture story in each of my books, including what is current. If there has been UPI mention of any one, it is news to me.

I cite this record so you will understand me and what is in my mind, not to seem impolite. I take you seriously, else I would not write at this length.

If you are interested in seeing something general, please limit it to what might interest you most and let me address that.

If you are interested in specifics, and in what I think will make good and current news stories, I am at your service whenever you can spare a little time beginning the week of August 28.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg